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Dear Senators Javits, Kennedy, Ribicoff, Schweiker and Williams:

I have written to some of you over a number of years on behalf of a national blood program, even prior to 1972 when it was constrained by its governing body, the Division of Biologic Standards under the NIH. The blood program went down hill under an unresponsive DBS until, for this and other reasons, DHEW Secretary Elliot Richardson was persuaded to transfer it to the FDA, an experienced regulatory agency, where it is now a division of the Bureau of Biologics which has been under the direction of Dr. Harry Meyer, Jr. since its inception in 1972.

After the transfer the blood program made great strides. Competent scientists were either brought in or elevated to positions where they could be effective. The program has achieved in five years what the old DBS program did not even address in its eighteen years of existence. On May 15, 1978, our Federal Blood Labeling Act becomes effective. There is more to be done to improve blood banking, but what a relief it is to see this progress being made.

I personally attribute this success to the new leadership, to the open-mindedness of the present BoB administration, to its candor and to the sunlight atmosphere under which it has operated these past six years.

I was therefore quite surprised to learn that the recurrent agitation by Dr. J. Anthony Morris and Mr. Turner would be listened to. This present attack appears to be one almost of vindictiveness. I can find no other reasonable motivation, and would urge you to look again carefully at the Science articles from 1972 that I have copied for you and am enclosing.

In October, 1971, I wrote to Senator Ribicoff after reading his statements in the October 15th Congressional Record and the Washington Post article of that date about the deficiencies in the vaccine and blood programs under DBS. I then prepared an extensive memorandum in February, 1972, covering the blood problem as I saw it. If no copies are available in Senator Ribicoff's office, I will supply them for you.

Six weeks later, Mr. Mark E. Greenwald, Assistant General Counsel, Committee on Government Operations, took a fairly lengthy deposition from me, of which I have a 50-page transcript. This also covered the inadequate performance of the blood and blood transfusion aspects of the DBS to that date.

Since then, BoB under the FDA has developed into the finest agency of its kind in the world. It has sought advice liberally from eminent scientists throughout the country, and indeed beyond. My concern is based on the depth of my own personal experience in how difficult it was to rid ourselves of the yoke of the old DBS and to recruit young and able scientists. Now Morris and Turner seem to be back at it again. Morris is no "whistle blower", as has been pointed out by the New York Times, but he and Turner, in their activities, might aptly be described as putting sand in the cogs of progress. There is no way that one can understand their motives, but they should be thoroughly examined in public.

I put this bluntly because any Federal regulatory agency is always under pressure from those whose activities they must regulate. My reaction would be to consider the harm that comes from continued harassment, promulgated by the same two people, particularly Morris whose record in the NIH, as detailed in the 1972 issues of Science, must surely serve as a warning to your staffs about the credibility of these criticisms.

BoB will continue to function well only if it can maintain its excellent staff and remain an agency attractive enough to recruit topnotch scientists as positions open up. I must express some selfish concern for our blood program as well. It is new and still vulnerable to erratic critics. It certainly depends upon a strong BoB in the FDA if it is to work, and it is most important that it does work.

Respectfully yours,

J. Garrott Allen, M.D.

* Final copy May 8, 1972

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